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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

THE PALESTINE ORANGE CROP

The 1926-27 orange crop in Palestine is estimated by the Palestine Department of Agriculture and Forests at about 2,500,000 cases as compared with 1,511,000 cases in 1925-26, according to a report received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul O. S. Heizer at Jerusalem. During 1926, orange exports from Palestine represented approximately 40 per cent of the total exports of all commodities.

The orange acreage of Palestine is being increased steadily, states Consul Heizer. More than 8,000 acres of orange trees are now in full bearing. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that orange growing is the most profitable business for those farmers who have sufficient capital to purchase land for orange groves and who can afford to wait six years until the trees begin profitable bearing. The region extending along the seacoast north and south of Jaffa seems to be ideal for orange cultivation as far as climate and soil are concerned. The Jaffa orange is famous for its sweetness and general excellent quality. The finest and best fruits go to the English market. The large and thick-skinned fruits are especially popular in Constantinople. Average grades go to Egypt and other Eastern Mediterranean markets. Before the war considerable quantities were exported from Jaffa to the Black Sea ports of Russia.

The profits that have been obtained in orange growing in Palestine are due more to the exceptionally favorable conditions of climate and soil rather than to skill in cultivation and management, states Consul Heizer. Despite the importance of the orange industry, operations in general are conducted in a most haphazard fashion. No systematic effort has been made toward determining the most profitable distance of planting, quantities of irrigation water needed, or toward adopting the latest methods of cultivation, fertilizing, etc. While orange planting has received a great stimulus in Palestine by the opening of trade with Eastern Europe, grapefruit is also being grown in increasing quantities to meet the demand for that fruit on the part of American tourists in Palestine and Egypt.

The following table gives the production of oranges in Palestine during the seasons 1920-21 to 1926-27:

Season	:	Quantity
October-May	:	
	:	Cases
1920-21 .....	:	830,959
1921-22 .....	:	1,234,251
1922-23 .....	:	1,365,543
1923-24 .....	:	1,589,331
1924-25 .....	:	2,146,457
1925-26 .....	:	1,511,000
1926-27 (estimate) .....	:	2,500,000

Source: Consul O. S. Heizer at Jerusalem.

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